

Serial No. 09/508,356 – Martin Greppmair
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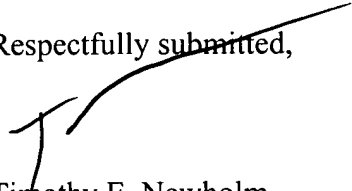
REMARKS

Claim 3 has been amended without changing its scope to conform its preamble to those of the remaining independent claims. Claims 9-15 have been canceled and resubmitted in a continuing application filed simultaneously herewith. For reasons previously stated, it is submitted that claims 1-8 are in compliance with 35 U.S.C. §103 and each define patentable subject matter. A Notice of Allowance is therefore respectfully requested.

No fees are believed to be payable with the submission of this response. However, the Director is authorized to charge any fees associated with this or any other communication, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-1170.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it would help expedite matters.

Respectfully submitted,



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Dated: February 23, 2004

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